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KEMPSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1948

H. E. C. SUTTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

C. A. L. SETCHELL, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.



To the Chairman and Members of the Kempston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Kempston Urban District for the year 1948.

This was a memorable year in the history of the Health Services of this Country. The National Health Service Act, 1946 came into operation on 5th July, 1948, the working of which is being observed with so much interest by other countries.

Through this Act, the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board assumed the responsibility for providing hospital accommodation including that for cases of infectious disease occurring in your District, and the County Council became the Authority for diphtheria immunisation.

This year is also of particular interest to workers in the field of Public Health as it marks the centenary of the appointment of the first full time Medical Officer of Health.

In the year under review, the health in so far as it is indicated by the various statistics for the District, compared favourably with that of recent years. Apart from whooping cough, the incidence of notifiable infectious disease was low.

I welcome this opportunity of thanking the officials of the District and the staff for their helpful co-operation and efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. C. SUTTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

KEMPSTON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1948

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

H. E. C. Sutton, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

C. A. L. Setchell, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat Inspection,
Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,302
Population, Census for 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,488
Registrar General's estimate of resident population up to Mid Year, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,610
Number of Inhabited Houses (at end of 1948) according to the Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,351
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£34,797
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£137

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The majority of employed people work in Bedford, or at Brick Works south of Kempston. A considerable number of men and girls are employed at Engineering Works in Bedford.

Apart from the Electric Lamp Works, the remainder in Kempston are small concerns comprising a Shoe Factory, Leather Works, Iron Foundry Works, Pattern Makers, Engineering Works, Crayon Works, Cardboard Box Factory, Tin Works and Metal Hose Works.

Social conditions are dominated by the housing shortage, with the consequence that many families are sharing houses and living in rooms often quite unsuitable. Although the Council are erecting houses as quickly as present restrictions and labour shortages will allow no end at present can be seen to this problem.

STATISTICS.

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	... ..	145	76	69
		Illegitimate	... ..	6	4	2
		Total	... ..	<u>151</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>71</u>

Birth Rate 17·5
per 1,000 of the
estimated resident
population

The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 17·9

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Still Births	{	Legitimate	... ..	2	2	0
		Illegitimate	... ..	0	0	0
				<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	

Birth Rate 17·8
per 1,000 births
(live and still)

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Deaths	...	...	...	82	36	46

giving a death rate of 9·5 per 1,000 of the resident population.

The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 10·8.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List).

				<i>Deaths</i>
No. 29	Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis	...	...	0
No. 30	Other Maternal causes	...	...	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—6·53.

MATERNAL MORTALITY FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Abortion with Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0·11 per 1,000 (live and still) Births.
Abortion without Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0·05 „ „ „ „ „ „
Puerperal Infections	...	...	...	...	0·13 „ „ „ „ „ „
Others	...	...	...	...	0·73 „ „ „ „ „ „

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Death of Infants under one year—Legitimate				...	...	...
Illegitimate				...	...	...
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births				...	...	...
„ „ „	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	59·6
„ „ „	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	62·06

								M.	F.
Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
„	„	Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
„	„	Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
„	„	Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
„	„	Scarlet Fever (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
„	„	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATH.

1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
8	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
9	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
10	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
11	Acute Polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
12	Acute infective encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
13	Cancer of b. cavity and œsophagus (M.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
	Uterus (F.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
15	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	12
19	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	15
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
23	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
24	Ulceration of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
25	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
29	Puerperal and Post-Abortion sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
30	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
31	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	0
32	Congenital Malformations, Birth injuries and infantile diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
35	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
36	All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
ALL CAUSES								36	46

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service is situated in the Department of Pathology, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

This Service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council acting for the Ministry of Health and is free of charge to the local authority.

One of the main functions of this Service is to co-operate with General Practitioners and Medical Officers of Health in the diagnosis, prevention, and control of infectious diseases. For these purposes the laboratory will undertake the examination of material, e.g., throat swabs, sputa, faeces, urine and blood from any patient suspected to be suffering from a communicable infection, or of being a carrier. All General Practitioners in the district have been acquainted of these facilities. It is intended that this Service shall in the future deal with all Public Health work of this nature.

No examinations were made during the year under review.

Under arrangements existing up to 5th July, the following examinations were made by the Bedford County Hospital:—

Throat Swab	1
-------------	-----	-----	-----	---

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the increasing demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulances or sitting case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out-patients of Hospitals using public transport are reimbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The service now also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:—

BEDFORD

Newnham Avenue

AMPTHILL

Claridges Lane

BIGGLESWADE

Crab Lane

Telephone

Bedford 4875

Ampthill 2187

Biggleswade 2295

	<i>Telephone</i>
DUNSTABLE High Street North	Dunstable 76
LUTON 42 Church Street	Luton 4600
LINSLADE Linslade, Leighton Buzzard and Wing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, 10 New Road, Linslade.	Leighton Buzzard 3332
WOBURN SANDS The Woburn Sands and District Ambulance Service, "Horse Grove," Station Road.	Woburn Sands 3107
RUSHDEN Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association, Mr. C. C. Woods, 3 Purvis Road.	Rushden 403

3. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Under the National Health Service Act 1946, the County Council became responsible for the provision of this Service, and from 5th July, the nurses and midwives in the district became the employees of the County Council.

Direct administration is by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

Only minor alterations have been necessary in the staff and nursing districts. The nurses are qualified both in nursing and midwifery, acting as nurse midwives, and each has a motor car.

No charge is made to patients.

The nurses employed are:—

Nurse M. Clark*†

Nurse M. Minards*†

† S.C.M. (State Certified Midwife)

* S.E.A.N. (State Enrolled Assistant Nurse)

4. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are undertaken by the County Council.

Infant Welfare Clinic:—Is held at the Kempston Methodist Schoolroom (Foster Road), on every Friday, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Ante-Natal Clinic:—Is held also at the Methodist Schoolroom, on alternate Wednesdays, at 10 a.m.

Venereal Disease Clinic:

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Bedford County Hospital ... (Amphill Road Entrance)	Monday to Friday (inclusive) 4-8 p.m.	Monday, Tuesday, 6 p.m. Wednesday, 5-7 p.m. Thursday, 6 p.m. Friday, 3-5 p.m.
Medical Officer in attendance: Wednesday, 5-7 p.m., Friday, 3-5 p.m.		

Chest Clinic:—

The new Clinic opened on 27th November, 1947, at:—

St. Peter's Hospital, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

Monday, 10 a.m.-12 noon	...	...	...	Contacts (both sexes)
Monday, 2 p.m.-3.30 p.m.	...	...	...	Pneumothorax Refills
Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.-11.30 a.m.	...	...	...	Women and Children only
Thursday, 9.30 a.m.-11.30 a.m.	...	...	...	Men only
Friday, 10 a.m.-11.30 a.m.	...	...	...	Pneumothorax Refills
Consultant Physician in attendance alternate Wednesdays.				

5. HOSPITALS.

The district is served by the Bedford Hospitals—the County and St. Peter's Hospital. These hospitals are controlled by the Bedford Group Hospital Management Committee.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Act, 1890.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Sections 61 and 67.
Notification of Births Act, 1907.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Prevention of Nuisances.
Cleansing of Footways.
New Streets and Buildings.
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.
Slaughter Houses.

SCHOOLS.

There are three schools in the District:—

1. KEMPSTON SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL.

The average number of pupils on the roll is 308 and the average attendance 271. The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	7 W.Cs. and 9 wash basins.
Boys	...	...	...	8 W.Cs. (shared with Juniors from Primary School); 2 urinals and 11 washbasins.

Two new classrooms each accommodating 40 pupils and the canteen has been completed.

2. BEDFORD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The average number of pupils on the roll is 265 and the average attendance 244. The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	7 W.Cs. (Infants and Juniors).
Boys	...	...	...	2 W.Cs. and urinal (Juniors share Modern School Urinal).

There are 9 wash basins.

3. THE UP END PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The average number of pupils on the roll is 364 and the average attendance is 328. The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	5 W.Cs. (Junior).
				3 W.Cs. (Infants).
Boys	...	...	...	2 W.Cs. and 1 urinal (Junior).
				2 W.Cs. (Infants).

Each of the schools has a main water supply. School dinners are provided in canteens situated at the Kempston Secondary Modern School and in Farrer Street.

An increase in sanitary accommodation is required to achieve the prescribed standards.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The District's water comes mainly from a greensand source and is purchased in bulk from the Biggleswade Water Board. That supplied to the Ampthill Road area is obtained from the Bedford Corporation.

At the present time, with the exception of four cottages situated on the extreme outskirts, water is supplied by the Council's mains directly to every dwelling house in the area.

The main water supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality. No alterations or extensions were carried out to the mains, but the services to nine houses were renewed during the year, and three supply mains repaired.

There are a few private wells in existence, the water from which is mainly used for horticultural purposes.

Water sampling is not carried out by this authority, but copies have been submitted of the results of all chemical and bacteriological examinations made on behalf of the two undertakings concerned. These have all revealed a quality of high standard.

There are 82 consumer meters in use in the District.

The water consumption figures for the year are given in the following table:—

							<i>Gallons</i>
Kempston Urban District	...	...	...	...	...	...	121,852,000
Elstow	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,109,000
Cardington	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,899,000
R.A.W.	...	...	...	...	...	...	56,973,000
Total							182,833,000

Cold water taps are re-washed free of charge by the Council and during the year 153 received attention.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Apart from the following premises which are situated in the out-parts of the District, all dwelling houses are connected to the sewers:—

<i>Situation</i>						<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>Sanitary Arrangements</i>
Sailor's Bridge	...	...	...	...	...	2	Pail Closets
Mill Cottage	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
Kempston Mill	...	...	...	...	...	1	Chemical Closets
Bury Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	4	Pail Closets
Hoo Lodge	...	...	...	...	...	1	Cesspool
The Mill House	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
The Manor	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
Manor Cottage	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
The Manor Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	2	"
Kempston Grange	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
Grange Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	2	"
The Bury	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
32, Elstow Road	...	...	...	...	...	1	"

During the year one dwelling was connected to the sewer and its cesspool abolished.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The installation of electrically controlled sludge pumps, in February, to replace the inadequate existing apparatus made the work of dealing with the considerable quantities of sludge produced easier, and increased in a small degree the efficiency of the works. Though the absence of proper drying beds creates problems and difficulties which cannot be fully met until these essentials are provided.

The complete scheme for the remodelling and enlargement of the Works, which was the subject of Ministerial Enquiry in 1946 still remains in abeyance.

The adaptation of the obsolete pump house into a Mess room and Drying room for the men employed at the Works has proved most beneficial, and is greatly appreciated.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints have been received of river or stream pollution during the year, and no action has been necessary.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of a few houses in the outlying parts of the district which have pail or chemical closets all houses have water closets.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There are no ash-pits or privies in the area. Pail closets are emptied weekly by the Council's men with tank carts, and contents discharged at the sewerage outfall.

The weekly collection of refuse and salvage in one operation from all premises has been continued by a Battery driven Refuse Collector, drawing a trailer. Approximately 1,448 tons of house refuse was disposed of during the year.

The following table shows the quantities of salvage sold during the year:—

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Waste Paper, Books, Cardboard	...	...	53	17½
Scrap Iron and Tins	...	...	2	18
Non-ferrous Metals	...	...		3½
Textiles	...	...	4	9¼
Rubber	...	...		1
Bones	...	...		6¾
Bottles and Jars	...	...	8	2½
Manure	...	...	6	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	1	0
Total			76	18½

Revenue from sale of Salvage during the year amounted to £473 12s. 1d.

The emptying of street gullies and street scavenging has been carried out whenever labour was available.

The Council was an entrant in the National Waste Paper Contest organised by the Waster Paper Recovery Association and although unsuccessful in obtaining one of the tempting monetary prizes that were offered, made a substantial contribution in increased paper collections. Inter-class competitions at the Schools were arranged through the very enthusiastic assistance of the Head Teachers, and in the three months of the contest waste paper collections exceeded the amounts for the same period of the previous year by 146.8 per cent in March, 310.7 per cent in April and 517.8 per cent in May. The total amount of paper salvage collected during the period of the Contest amounted to 30 tons, of which no less than 6 tons came from the Schools.

6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table shows the number of inspections made during the year, for all purposes:—

Dwelling-houses inspected and Recorded under the Housing Acts Regulations	...	20
Ordinary Inspections for housing defects	...	62
Sanitary routine inspections	...	230
Inspection of Slaughter-houses and Foodstuffs	...	56
Visits and re-visits to Council Property relating to reported defects and repairs of same	...	410

Inspection of Factories and Workshops, including Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Inspection of Cow-sheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Visits re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Inspections under Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	221
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Other Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Water Services	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Building Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	431

7. SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Apart from cleansing of conveniences in two instances, no action with regard to shops and offices was found necessary.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action found necessary.

9. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no privately owned or other swimming baths open to the public in the District.

10. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year under review six houses, all privately owned, were found to be infested with bugs.

These were disinfested and two separate methods have been put into operation as follows:—

- (1) Skirting boards and architraves pulled away from walls in all rooms, all floor covering removed and destroyed. Holes bored in ceilings of all rooms. All windows, doors and chimney openings sealed and disinfested by High Concentration of Gas (Cescones).
- (2) Procedure as above, but no openings sealed, and disinfested with a liquid fumigant (Zaldecide), in the form of a spray pressure driven, behind all skirting boards, architraves, picture rails and all other likely places.
- (3) Periodic revisiting is carried out and process repeated where found necessary.

11. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

In the early part of the year plans were submitted to the Surveyor for the adapting of part of the disused Decontamination building at the Farrer Street Depot, to replace the old mortuary.

This has now been completed with a great improvement in the facilities available.

HOUSING.

Since the end of the Second World War a total of 134 dwellings, including 20 pre-fabricated bungalows, have been erected by the Authority. There are 20 more houses at present under construction, a further 20 for which approval of Tender is awaited by the Ministry of Health, and plans for yet another 10 dwellings in preparation.

In this period 38 houses have been erected by private enterprise, and there is at present one bungalow under construction. Plans for 52 private houses were approved during the year, making a total of more than a 100 dwellings which could probably be built if building restrictions were lifted.

APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES.

At the end of the year there were 565 names of applicants for houses on the Register, but a subsequent revision reduced the total of applicants still to be satisfied to 346. Details of these are as follows:—

Residing but not working in Kempston	...	...	...	...	159
Residing and working in Kempston	...	...	...	...	76
Working but not residing in Kempston	...	...	...	...	24
Not working or residing in Kempston	...	...	...	...	87

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	43
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	43
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	...	...	...	...	20
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	20
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	43

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	38
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit at service of formal notices:— | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

Due to lack of alternative accommodation no action has been taken under this Part, although records of known cases are maintained, and fresh cases are continually being discovered.

SURVEYOR'S INSPECTIONS OF BUILDING WORKS IN PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR.

Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Surface Water Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Footings and Foundations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Concrete to Foundations and Footings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
Damp Course	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Work in course of construction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	374
Alterations and additions to existing properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED AND OCCUPIED DURING THE YEAR.

1. By the Local Authority	70
2. By other Authorities	Nil
3. By other bodies or persons	2

PLANS SUBMITTED AND DEALT WITH DURING YEAR.

Dwelling-houses :—

(a) Local Authority	24
(b) Military Authorities	10
(c) Private Enterprise	52
Private Garages	55
Outbuildings	36
Extensions or alterations to existing buildings	19
Industrial and Business Premises	20

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 10 dairy premises and 6 cowsheds in the district to which 14 visits were made. Visits to cowsheds have been made during milking hours and suggestions given for the purpose of encouraging clean methods and for necessary care to be taken in the production and handling of milk.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The slaughtering of food animals in this area was discontinued on the 15th of January, 1940, under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940.

Two Slaughter Houses are licensed in this area but have only been used during the period under review for the slaughter of pigs belonging to "self suppliers" from areas outside the radius specified, from a Government Slaughter House.

Shops, vehicles and places where food is prepared have been duly inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Voluntary surrender of the undermentioned foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption has been made, same having been destroyed under supervision:—

Imported and Home Killed Meat	87 lbs.
Sausages	12 lbs.
Fresh Fish	771½ lbs.
Canned Meats	22½ lbs.
„ Fish	14 lbs.
„ Vegetables and Soups	4 lbs.
„ Milk	1 lb.
Chocolate	2 lbs.
Eggs	447
Canned Fruit	10 lbs.

ICE CREAM.

Fourteen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and five for its manufacture in the District. During the year, however, only at two premises was ice cream actually manufactured and in each case the complete cold mix process was operated. Frequent visits have been made to these and the requirements of the Heat Treatment Regulations fully explained and found to be observed.

Apart from those who manufacture their own ice cream, the dealers in the District obtain their supplies of the pre-packed commodity from the large reputable wholesalers.

DISINFECTION.

Fumigation of rooms has been carried out as follows, by a dilute spray of Formalin and by Formaldehyde Gas.

After Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
After Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	7
Other causes	...	...	...	...	2

An inspection of the house and sanitary arrangements is also made in each case, and notice served to make good any defect that may be found.

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Complaints of rat infestation at premises in the district were investigated and measures taken to secure their eradication.

The sewage disposal works and refuse tips are kept under constant supervision and treated periodically with poison baits.

CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL.

In August, 1945, local authorities were requested to undertake the licensing of building work, within certain limits, under Defence Regulation 56A, also the granting of licences for private builders to erect small houses. The following table shows the Building Licences issued during the year under review:—

Number of Licences granted for the repair, etc., of—

Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£4,176

Number of Licences granted for repair of—

Premises other than Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	...	49
Value	...	...	...	...	...	£2,245

Number of Licences granted for the erection of—

New Dwellings for Sale or Owner Occupation	...	...	...	8
Value	...	...	...	£8,940

Number of licences granted for work resulting in an increase of housing accommodation, 1—£54.

With the very many duties which single-handed he has to carry out your Sanitary Officer, who is also Surveyor, Water Engineer and Housing Manager, is fully conscious of the fact that some important aspects of his work tends to be neglected and not given the complete and detailed attention that it deserves. Not the least of these is the matter of house to house inspections and the repair of working class property. Though in this particular duty the problem is somewhat increased by the reluctance of property owners to carry out their obligations, due there is no doubt, mainly because the cost of repairs today is out of all proportion to the rents that are being received. It may be said that this aspect of the problem is no concern of the sanitary inspector, but indeed it is, for a sympathetic officer feels that he cannot ask for as much as he would like if rents kept in line with repair costs, and thus there is a lowering of standards. Rents, therefore, like many other financial matters require urgent investigation. It is to be hoped that in the Utopia we are so often promised and to which we work and look forward so eagerly, these and other difficulties with which a local government official is so heavily burdened will be removed.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

The Oakley Isolation Hospital, administered by a Joint Hospital Board, comprised of members from the Bedford Borough Council, Bedford Rural District Council and from Kempston Urban District Council, was on 5th July transferred to the Minister of Health whose duty it became to provide isolation hospital accommodation.

At the time of writing this Report, the Oakley Isolation Hospital has ceased to be used as such and cases of infectious disease are sent either to the Steppingley or to the Spittlesea Isolation Hospital.

The present policy of the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, which is now the authority for the admission to hospital of patients suffering from infectious disease, is that scarlet fever and measles should be admitted only where it is considered advisable due to the seriousness of the illness, or to an unsatisfactory home environment.

OAKLEY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Patients in hospital from your District on 1st January, 1948 Nil

Admissions—

Suspected Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1§
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1‡
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3†
Mumps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Final diagnosis: * Tonsillitis.

† Rubella 2 cases; Measles and Pneumonia 1 case.

‡ Benign lymphocytic Meningitis.

§ Pharyngitis.

Discharges—

Rubella	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tonsillitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mumps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Benign Lymphocytic Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pharyngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of patients in hospital on 31st December, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Scarlet Fever.

Three cases were notified. Two of these were treated in hospital, the remaining one being nursed at home.

Smallpox.

I am glad to report that no case occurred.

Diphtheria.

No cases notified.

Pneumonia.

No cases notified.

Poliomyelitis.

One case was notified but the diagnosis was later revised to Pharyngitis.

Erysipelas.

One case was notified.

Typhoid Fever.

No cases notified.

Measles.

There were eleven cases as compared with eighty-two in the previous year. All of these recovered.

Whooping Cough.

Twenty-nine cases were notified, as compared with three in the previous year. All recovered.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

No cases notified.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

There have been no epidemics brought to my notice.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

	Measles	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis
Total cases notified ...	14	—	1	—	3	—	29	1‡	1§
Cases admitted to Hospital ...	3*	1†	—	—	2	—	—	1	1
Total Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 1-2 years ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 2-3 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 3-4 years ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 4-5 years ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 5-10 years ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 10-15 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 15-20 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 20-35 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 35-45 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 45-65 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases 65 years and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Two rediagnosed German Measles.

† Rediagnosed Tonsillitis.

‡ Rediagnosed Pharyngitis.

§ Rediagnosed Benign Lymphocytic Meningitis.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year to 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 years to 10 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " 15 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " 20 "	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " 25 "	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " 35 "	3	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
35 " 45 "	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
45 " 55 "	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 " 65 "	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	7	7	—	—	3	1	1	—

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

With the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, 1946, on 5th July of this year, the County Council assumed responsibility for the functioning of a scheme under which facilities are available for children of all ages to obtain this important preventive treatment free of charge, either from the family doctor at his surgery, or from a medical officer at any of the Welfare Centres or schools within the County.

Table I below gives the numbers in age groups of children who received treatment during the first half year.

I. IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Diphtheria Immunisation for the six months ending 30th June, 1948.

Number of Children who completed a Full Course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including temporary residents) in the above six months, ending 30th June, 1948			Total Number of Children who were given a Secondary or Reinforcing Injection (i.e., subsequent to complete full course)
Age at date of Final Injection		Total	During 6 months ending 30th June, 1948
Under 5	5 to 14		
33	2	35	1

II. DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN RELATION TO IMMUNISATION.

For six months ending 30th June, 1948.

NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS		
Age at date of notification	Number of cases notified	Number of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of Immunisation	Age at date of Death	Number of Deaths	Number of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of Immunisation
Under 1 ...	—	—	Under 1 ...	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—
2	—	—	2	—	—
3	—	—	3	—	—
4	—	—	4	—	—
5-9	—	—	5-9	—	—
10-14 ...	—	—	10-14 ...	—	—
Totals ...	—	—	Totals ...	—	—

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

Scabies.

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford, at the cost of 2s. per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review five adults received treatment.

CANCER.

Eight deaths from cancer were registered. Two males and six females.

Distribution of Males.

Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	0		
Stomach and Duodenum	1	...	(aged 58)
All other sites	1	...	(aged 49)

Distribution of Females.

Uterus	0		
Stomach and Duodenum	0		
Breast	2	...	(48, 63)
All other sites	4	...	(aged 80, 83, 74, 58)

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was necessary to be taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No necessity arose for any action to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons in the Milk Trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to compulsory removal to Hospital).

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M. c. line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	4	4	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	32	16	2	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority† (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	2	—	—	3
Total ...		39	22	2	—	

†i.e., Electrical Stations [Section 103 (i)], Institutions. (Section 104) and Sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars	M/c. line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c. line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	2	2	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable tem- perature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveni- ences (S.7)—							
(a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	1	1	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	—	—	—	1	—	12
Total	60	3	3	—	1	—	60

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Section 110			Section 111			M/c. line No. (9)
		No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in send- ing lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecu- tions (8)	
Wearing apparel— Making, etc. ...	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	13

To the Chairman and Members of the
Kempston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dr. Sutton having retired from the post of Medical Officer of Health in June, 1950, I have the honour to submit the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics, and sanitary conditions of the Kempston Urban District for the year 1949.

From the available statistics it appears that the general health of the population has been satisfactory during the year.

A study of the infectious disease notifications shows that there was a high incidence of scarlet fever, the bulk of the cases occurring in the last quarter of the year and affecting chiefly the 5-10 year age group. Measles, too, occurred in epidemic form, the incidence again affecting chiefly the 5-10 year age group, and taking place in the second quarter of the year. No cases of diphtheria, poliomyelitis, or meningitis were notified during the year.

In conclusion I welcome this opportunity of thanking the Officials of the district and the staff for their helpful co-operation and efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M. J. PLEYDELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

January, 1951.

